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SUN

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SATURDAY
November 4, 2017



Dorothea Powe of Edmondson Village loses her voice, shouting, "Cease the fire!" during the second Baltimore Ceasefire weekend. The rally was held Friday at Edmondson Village Shopping Center, and more events are planned through the weekend.

KARL MERTON FERRON/BALTIMORE SUN

Rallies try to halt gunfire

Second Baltimore Ceasefire looks to curb city violence

BY TIM PRUDENTE AND LIZ BOWIE
The Baltimore Sun

Neighborhood leaders are once again urging Baltimore's young men to lay down their guns for a murder-free weekend, calling for peace across a city that's suffered 300 killings in 307 days this year.

The grim milestone of 300 homicides arrived late Thursday as volunteers prepared to begin the second Baltimore Ceasefire, a weekend of free events from basketball to barbecue — all intended to quell the violence.

During the year's first Ceasefire in August, Lamontrey Tynes and Donte Johnson were killed, and gunfire wounded four others during the 72-hour period. And more than 100 people have been killed in the three months since the last call for peace.

"It was looking darker and darker. People were dying and dying ... it's so dark that we've forgotten our light," said Erricka Bridgeford, a professional mediator who founded Baltimore's ceasefire movement. "So that's what we need to do — flick the lights on."

With events both large and small this weekend, participants hope to illuminate Baltimore against the violence. The volunteers resumed the movement Friday afternoon by raising "Baltimore Ceasefire" signs and singing gospel songs along Edmondson Avenue.

Behind them was the Dollar General where Deric Ford Sr., a kindly store manager, was shot and killed in a robbery three months ago. Up the street was the block where Sean Williams, a popular teenage dirt bike rider See **CEASEFIRE**, page 11

Violence increasingly claims older victims

This year, 28 people over 50 have been homicide victims

BY JESSICA ANDERSON
The Baltimore Sun

On a large board in Margaret Mackey's Northwest Baltimore dining room are dozens of pictures of her eldest son, Bernard, who was killed in September.

There's a weathered black-and-white photo from his infancy, a discolored Northwestern High school portrait and a more recent Snapchat image with the caption "can't believe ur gone," with blue heart and frowning face emojis — evidence of a life spanning 51 years.

Bernard Mackey was a father of four — including two adult children — a longtime homeowner and entrepreneur who started several businesses before he was

fatally shot Sept. 30 in Northeast Baltimore.

"It's still to me unreal," said Mackey's mother, 72, who did not expect to outlive her adult son. "Sometimes I feel like I can't catch my breath, I can't breathe. It is so painful and then it seem likes this is not happening. When am I going to wake up? It happens to other people. It's not happening to me," she said.

As Baltimore surpasses 300 homicides for the third straight year, a greater share of the casualties include more like Mackey with decades of life experience, who leave behind children, grandchildren and elderly parents.

While the average age of a homicide See **VICTIMS**, page 11



KARL MERTON FERRON/BALTIMORE SUN
In the dining room where the family gathers each Thanksgiving, Margaret Mackey talks about her son Bernard Mackey Jr., 51, who was recently killed.

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

MARYLAND



POSSIBLE CHARGES: New York City police said Friday that an actress' rape allegations against Harvey Weinstein are credible and could lead to his arrest. Pas de la Huerta's account was believable and

had corroboration for portions of her account by two people, they said. **NEWS PG 9**

Fall back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour tonight for the end of daylight saving time at 2 a.m. Sunday.



TODAY'S WEATHER

PARTLY SUNNY, COOLER

58
HIGH

48
LOW



Cloudy on Sunday **SPORTS PG 10**

Jacey Lee, a 5-foot-4 16-year-old, is Baltimore Polytechnic's first female varsity football player, and she's bringing it

Girl is taking the field for Poly

BY TALIA RICHMAN
The Baltimore Sun

On the night of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute's homecoming dance, junior Jacey Lee was far away from the school cafeteria, where many of her classmates swayed under dim lights.

Members of the varsity football team weren't supposed to attend Friday night's dance. The Poly Engineers' coach expected them to get a good night's sleep, so they would be ready to face off against their foes of more than a century, the Baltimore City College Knights.

Jacey, 16, is no exception. And she believes she has to be extra-focused: When she runs out at M&T Bank Stadium today for the noon game between the two city high schools, school officials say it will mark the first time for a girl to take the field in the storied Poly-City rivalry.

While she isn't a starter with guaranteed playing time, this is the game Jacey has always dreamed of playing in.

She knows she has to bring it. Coaches and teammates say that's what she's been doing for years, ever since she See **FOOTBALL**, page 12



KIM HAIRSTON/BALTIMORE SUN

Jacey Lee, center, talks with other players on the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute varsity football team during training for today's City/Poly game.

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